

Spring 1-15-2013

ENG 4300-4390-001-099: Exploring Madness and Evil in Literature and Film

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Recommended Citation

Martinez, Robert, "ENG 4300-4390-001-099: Exploring Madness and Evil in Literature and Film" (2013). *Spring 2013*. 97.
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4300-001
4390-099

English 4300/4390 (Section 001/099):

“My Mind’s Not Right”: Exploring Madness and Evil in Literature and Film

Instructor: Dr. Robert Martínez, Coleman Hall 3371
E-mail: rlmartinez@eiu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 12 noon-1 PM, 3-4 PM, and by appointment
Course time & location: 9-9.50, Coleman 3159

Course Description:

Why have questions regarding the existence of evil and madness dominated much of our thinking and literature throughout human history? From early Greek dramatists to the psychoanalytic work of Freud and beyond, humanity has obsessed over the problems of madness and evil that wreak havoc in our daily lives. Why do they exist, and what can we learn from them? In this course, we will explore a wide variety of literature and art primarily from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that attempt to decipher and address questions of how evil and madness affect human character and societal structure. Lastly, students will study developments in how critical theory enables us to make sense of these social and psychological phenomena. Coursework involves active, enthusiastic discussion, short response papers, a longer, research-oriented analytic paper, and a final exam. (Note: Students in departmental honors should register for the 4390 course instead of the 4300 course by contacting the Chair of the English Department.)

Required Texts:

- Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing*
- J. G. Ballard, *Crash*
- Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*
- Sebastian Faulks, *Engleby*
- John Fowles, *The Collector*
- Sigmund Freud, *Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper*
- Tim O’Brien, *In the Lake of the Woods*
- Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts & The Day of the Locust*
- Selected theoretical works (Fredric Jameson, Jean Baudrillard, Michel Foucault)

Required Films:

- Michael Powell, *Peeping Tom*
- Martin Scorsese, *Taxi Driver*
- David Cronenberg, *Videodrome*
- Michael Haneke, *The White Ribbon*
- William Castle, *Straight-Jacket*
- Alfred Hitchcock, *Rebecca*

Advice for Readings:

Complete readings by the date listed on the syllabus. Plan to read slowly and use Post-It tabs or your notebook to make note of your ideas. If a passage or text perplexes you, create a question that will help you understand it and bring that question to class to share for discussion.

Course Expectations:

- You should complete all assigned readings on time and attend all film screenings.
- You should be prepared to talk about course material (readings and films) in class *enthusiastically!* Your education is largely what you make it. Your professors are here to help and guide you, but college is definitely the time for you to start demonstrating initiative and self-direction. Be ready to participate and work with others; do not expect your professor or your classmates to hand you ideas or “answers.”
- Students will complete brief response papers to assigned readings and films (2-4 pages).
- Students will write a well-researched analytic term paper (10-12 pages) and complete a final exam.
- Attend class. Missing too many classes will negatively affect your final grade (unless excused by illness or extenuating circumstances *and* approved by the instructor).
- **Plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable.** Plagiarism is the presentation of another’s words or ideas as your own. Usually plagiarism is intentional, but it can also occur when one fails to cite a source correctly. It violates the EIU honor system and robs the original author of due credit. As a student at Eastern Illinois University, you are responsible for abiding by the EIU Student Conduct Code. Should I determine that you have knowingly committed plagiarism in an assignment, I will not hesitate to penalize your work and to direct the case to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Grading:

- Response Papers: 30%
- Term Paper: 35%
- Final Exam: 15%
- Participation and attendance: 20%

**Schedule - Exploring Madness and Evil in Literature and Film
Spring 2013**

Note: Readings/events are subject to change

Date	What’s Happening in Class	Homework
Mon., 1/7	Introduction to course	Start reading Freud’s <i>Dora</i> (pp. 1-50)
Wed., 1/9	Movement I: Women and “Madness” Discuss Freud	Continue reading Freud’s <i>Dora</i> (pp. 51-100)
Fri., 1/11	Discuss Freud	Finish reading Freud’s <i>Dora</i> (pp. 101-144); complete response paper on Freud
Mon., 1/14	Response paper due; Discuss Freud	Read Charlotte P. Gilman’s <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i>
Wed., 1/16	Discuss Gilman	Complete response paper on Gilman
Fri., 1/18	Response paper due; Discuss Gilman	Start reading Chopin’s <i>The Awakening</i> (pp. 1-100)
Mon., 1/21	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class</i>	Continue reading Chopin!
Wed., 1/23	Discuss Chopin	Finish reading Chopin’s <i>The Awakening</i> (pp. 101-180)
Fri., 1/25	Discuss Chopin	Read background material from Chopin Norton ed. (An Etiquette/Advice Book Sampler, Duties of the Wife, Avoid All Causes for Complaint, Influence of Mothers)

Mon., 1/28	Discuss Chopin and sources	Read from Chopin Norton ed. (Dorothy Dix's "Are Women Growing Selfish?" and "Women and Suicide"; Thorstein Veblen's "Conspicuous Consumption and the Servant-Wife"); complete response paper on Chopin
Wed., 1/30	Response paper due; Discuss Chopin and context readings	Read selections from <i>Film Art</i> (pp. 118-138; 148-155; 167-173; 173-180; 191-203; 212-218; 223-235; 274-298; Film Terms handout)
Fri., 2/1	Discussion/lesson: how to analyze film	
Mon., 2/4	Movement II: Trauma and Madness Watch Powell's <i>Peeping Tom</i>	
Wed., 2/6	Watch Powell's <i>Peeping Tom</i>	Read Laura Mulvey's "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (handout)
Fri., 2/8	Discuss Powell's <i>Peeping Tom</i> ; discuss Mulvey	Complete response paper on <i>Peeping Tom</i>
Mon., 2/11	Response paper due; Discuss Powell's <i>Peeping Tom</i> ; discuss Mulvey	Start reading Tim O'Brien's <i>In the Lake of the Woods</i> (pp. 1-50)
Wed., 2/13	Discuss O'Brien	Read <i>In Lake of the Woods</i> (pp. 51-201)
Fri., 2/15	Lincoln's Birthday – No Class	Continue reading <i>In the Lake of the Woods</i> (pp. 51-201)
Mon., 2/18	Discuss O'Brien	Read <i>In Lake of the Woods</i> (pp. 202-252)
Wed., 2/20	Discuss O'Brien	Finish reading <i>In Lake of the Woods</i> (pp. 253-303); complete Response paper on O'Brien
Fri., 2/22	Response paper due; Discuss O'Brien	
Mon., 2/25	Watch <i>Taxi Driver</i>	
Wed., 2/27	Watch <i>Taxi Driver</i>	
Fri., 3/1	Finish watching <i>Taxi Driver</i> and discuss	Complete response paper on <i>Taxi Driver</i>
Mon., 3/4	Response paper due; Discuss <i>Taxi Driver</i>	Start reading Sebastian Faulks's <i>Engleby</i> (pp. 1-51)
Wed., 3/6	Discuss <i>Engleby</i>	Read <i>Engleby</i> (pp. 52-102)
Fri., 3/8	Discuss <i>Engleby</i>	Finish reading <i>Engleby</i> (pp. 103-336)
Mon., 3/11-3/15	Spring Break – No Class	Finish reading <i>Engleby</i> (pp. 103-336)
Mon., 3/18	Discuss <i>Engleby</i>	Complete response paper on <i>Engleby</i>
Wed., 3/20	Response paper due; Discuss <i>Engleby</i>	Read all of Nathanael West's <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i> (pp. 1-58)
Fri., 3/22	Discuss <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>	Read selections from William James's <i>Varieties of Religious Experience</i> (D2L); complete response paper on <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>
Mon., 3/25	Response paper due; Discuss <i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>	Read West's <i>The Day of the Locust</i> (pp. 59-109)

Wed., 3/27	Discuss <i>The Day of the Locust</i>	Read West's <i>The Day of the Locust</i> (pp. 110-160)
Fri., 3/29	Discuss <i>The Day of the Locust</i>	Finish West's <i>The Day of the Locust</i> (pp. 161-185); complete response paper on <i>Locust</i>
Mon., 4/1	Response paper due; Discuss <i>The Day of the Locust</i>	Read Fredric Jameson's "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" (D2L)
Wed., 4/3	Discuss Jameson	Read Jean Baudrillard's "The Evil Demon of Images" and "The Precession of Simulacra" (D2L)
Fri., 4/5	Discuss Baudrillard	Start reading J.G. Ballard's <i>Crash</i> (pp. 1-60)
Mon., 4/8	Discuss <i>Crash</i>	Read <i>Crash</i> (pp. 61-111)
Wed., 4/10	Discuss <i>Crash</i>	Read <i>Crash</i> (pp. 112-162)
Fri., 4/12	Discuss <i>Crash</i>	Finish reading <i>Crash</i> (pp. 163-224); complete response paper on <i>Crash</i>
Mon., 4/15	Response paper due; Discuss <i>Crash</i>	Note: By this date, you should definitely have most of your research covered for your term paper and begin to start writing your term paper. Don't wait until the last minute!
Wed., 4/17	Begin watching Cronenberg's <i>Videodrome</i>	
Fri., 4/19	Watch <i>Videodrome</i>	Complete response paper on <i>Videodrome</i>
Mon., 4/22	Response paper due; Discuss <i>Videodrome</i>	
Wed., 4/24	Discuss <i>Videodrome</i> ; course evaluations	
Fri., 4/26	No Class: extended office hours for term paper	

Term Paper due on Monday, April 29 by 4 PM

Final Exam: Monday, April 29, 2.45-4.45 p.m.